II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message from the Governor of Madras, dated 2nd October 1957 :—

"In pursuance of Article 207, Clause (3) of the Constitution of India, I, P. V. Rajamannar, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Assembly the consideration of the Madras Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1957."

(2) PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPERS OF QUESTIONS, AMENDMENTS, ETC., DISALLOWED BY HON. SPEAKER.

MR. SPEAKER : An amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the Governor's Address was given notice of by a Member and it was disallowed and the Member was informed of this with reason for disallowing. This has been published in one of the Tamil dailies by the Member himself. It is a well-established convention of the House of Commons that a Member who gives to the Press for publication questions or resolutions, before they are admitted by the Chair commits a breach of Privilege of the House. The attention of the Members of the Legislature has therefore been drawn ever since the Reformed Council came into existence in this State to the objectionable practice of publishing questions in the daily press, before the same were admitted by the Chair. For the same reasons, on 8th May 1952, the then Speaker pointed out that amendments to the discussion on His Excellency the Governor's Address should not be published in the Press before they were admitted, as it was unparliamentary to do so and he also expressed the hope that the Press would co-operate with him to see that they did not publish any amendments before they were admitted by him.

If a Member or newspaper has no right to publish a question or amendment before its admission, it follows that they cannot publish a question or amendment when it has been disallowed. It would be too much to contend that the mere fact that the Speaker has disallowed a question or a resolution or amendment—may be on some technical ground—would debar a Member from giving publicity to his well-meant efforts in the public cause. Such a publication of disallowed questions, resolutions or amendments by the Member who had given notice of them necessarily involves also the contempt of the Speaker's authority inasmuch as it amounts to a resort to the public Press for ventilation of the grievances arising from the disallowance of the question, resolution or amendment. It places the Speaker in difficult circumstances, for the Speaker himself cannot rush to the Press in defence of his disallowance. It is therefore necessary that a wholesome convention should be established in this House as in the House of Commons that Members should not publish or countenance the publication